

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Immigration Committee
April 30, 2018 at 10:30 AM
CLASI, Dover

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:38 AM. In attendance were Adrienne Owen (DSP), Akilah Seeney (DSP), Gloria Smith (DCJ), Emily Houde (CLASI), Cindy Garcia (CLASI), Kate Sell (CLASI), Mayra Reyes (GPD), Kelly Head (CLASI), Maribel Perez (La Esperanza), Rosalba Fuentes (La Esperanza), Carmen Mendez (NCCPD), Nancy Carranza (Abriendo Puertas), Pedro Torres (NCCPD)

Attending via teleconference: Sue Ryan (DCADV), Megan Fisher (DOJ), Carolyn Becker (WPD Victims Services), Bianca Martinez (FCC), Belkys Sanchez (FCC), Maria Aguilary (FCC)

DVCC Staff: Aimee String and Moe Monagle (via phone)

- II. Minutes from the March 6, 2018 meeting were approved with amendments.

III. New Business

a. Committee Membership

- i. Over the next couple of weeks, the DVCC will be working to establish specific committee membership. Invitations will be sent out to participating agencies. The hope is to have one voting member per agency. All persons will still be welcomed to attend meetings and speak freely. If anyone has suggestions about new agencies you would like to see represented on the committee, please send an e-mail to aimee.string@state.de.us.

IV. Old Business

- a. At the March 6, 2018 meeting Natasha Smith of the DVCC attended the meeting to discuss a recommendation from FIRT (Fatal Incident Review Team). FIRT would like to see a needs assessment completed with members of the immigrant community as it relates to barriers in seeking services. The purpose of the assessment would be to make sure that we are addressing gaps and not making any assumptions on behalf of the immigrant community. A needs assessment would help to identify why immigrant victims are not reaching out for help and how they learn about available services.

- i. At the DVCC Quarterly meeting, Laura Graham (committee chair) presented the needs assessment to the full council as a need that was presented to the committee. Once formal voting members are identified the committee will vote on whether the needs assessment is something that the committee would like to work on. At that time the committee will need to ask the full council for a vote on pursuing funding.

b. Resource Guide

- i. Aimee circulated copies of the updated Immigration Services Resource List. All changes, updates and corrections received to date have been included. Aimee will circulate the resource list once again via e-mail with a deadline to make any changes. Changes can be e-mailed to aimee.string@state.de.us

c. DACA Update:

- i. September 2017, Trump announced that he planned to phase out DACA, allowing renewals (for people who currently held DACA) through March 5, 2018 but refusing to adjudicate newly filed DACA applications.
- ii. January 9, 2018 – District Court in the northern district of CA issued a preliminary injunction and requiring DHS to maintain DACA on a nationwide basis by allowing individuals to submit applications to renew their enrollment in DACA.
- iii. February 13, 2018 – District Court in NY issued a preliminary injunction requiring DHS to accept DACA applications from people who have had DACA previously. (Same as the CA decision in January.)
- iv. February 26, 2018, US Supreme Court declined cert on the DACA “cert before judgment” request filed by the Trump administration; SCOTUS won’t accept cert and hear the case until at least one circuit court issues a decision on DACA.
- v. On April 24, 2018, a U.S. District Court Judge in the District of DC held that:
 - 1. The Department of Homeland Security’s legal explanation for the decision to end DACA was not grounded in the law, and unpersuasive (the decision to end DACA was “arbitrary and capricious because the Department failed adequately to explain its conclusion that the program was unlawful.”
 - 2. Gave DHS 90 days to provide a better explanation for the rescission; if the Judge still finds their response inadequate, then he could order that the entire program be restored, i.e. new applicants (kids who have turned 15 since September, other new eligible applicants, etc.) will be permitted to seek DACA. (Would expand upon the NY and CA decisions above, by allowing all eligible new DACA kids to apply, as opposed to just renewals.)
 - a. No one should submit new applications within the 90 days.

V. New Business

- a. Community Outreach Events: The committee discussed possible community events that the committee could attend to distribute information. The following events were identified as possibilities:
 - i. Hispanic Festival in Wilmington, DE
 - ii. Hispanic Festival in Georgetown, DE (September 15th or 16th). No location as of yet.
 - iii. Apple Scrapple Festival: Located in Bridgeville, DE. (October)
- b. Police agencies have received reports from immigrant families about individuals calling or Facetiming them and making threats against the family unless the family pays a sum of money.

The caller claims to have information about the person's family. Information has been shared with police agencies across the state. Wilmington police will issue a community wide bulletin.

VI. Agency Reports

- a. The Family Counseling Center will be holding a Family Fun Day on June 16th at the Route 9 Library and Innovation Center. There will be resource tables, face painting, bounce houses and breakout learning sessions on topics such as Domestic Violence and Trauma. More information will be coming soon.
- b. The DCJ will host their Delaware Celebrating Justice dinner event on May 17th at 5:30 PM at the Delaware Museum of Natural History. Tickets can be purchased through a link on their website. Your ticket includes access to the open bar and passed and stationed heavy hors d'oeuvres catered by Toscana

VII. Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 4th at the Delaware State Police Museum in Dover at 10:30 AM.